

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 20 have been amended. Claims 3, 4, 7, 10, 13, and 15-19 have been cancelled.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-11 and 13-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,948,062 (Clapper).

In the present invention:

(1) data indicating the number of significant digits of position information is obtained from an input device;

(2) a file is encrypted using, as a key, data having high-order digits corresponding to the number of significant digits of the position information obtained from the data indicating the number of significant digits;

(3) the first digest is generated from a hash operation performed on the encrypted file, and public key encryption data is generated by encrypting, using a public key, the data indicating the number of significant digits, the encrypted file, and the first digest; and

(4) the second digest is generated by performing a hash operation on the generated public key encryption data, and data to be provided is generated by adding the second digest to the public key encryption data.

Applicants respectfully submit that Clapper fails to disclose the above-identified features of the present invention, as reflected in the claims. For example, although Clapper discloses that encryption and decryption may be tied to physical location information, the reference is silent regarding data indicating the number of significant digits of position information being obtained from an input device using, as an encryption key, data having high-order digits corresponding to the number of significant digits of the position information obtained from the data indicating the number of significant digits.

Hence, independent claims 1, 5-6, and 8 are patentable over Clapper. As dependent claims 2, 11, 14, 9, and 20 depend from respective independent claims, the dependent claims are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clapper in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20030118188 (Collier).

Although Collier discloses that encryption and decryption may be tied to physical location information, Collier fails to cure the deficiencies of Clapper. Therefore, claim 12, via, independent claim 1, is patentable over the cited combination of references.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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